

Apr. 28 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

NOTE: The telephone interview began at 9:20 p.m. The President spoke from the Residence at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to

Dick Kelley, his mother's husband, and James Morgan, coauthor of her autobiography, "Leading With My Heart."

Nomination for a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority *April 28, 1994*

The President today announced his intent to nominate Phyllis N. Segal as a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

"Phyllis Segal is uniquely qualified to fill this important role at the Federal Labor Relations Authority," the President said. "She has a keen understanding of the issues facing the organiza-

tion and Federal labor management relations. Her varied background will be an asset at the Authority."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks to Native American and Native Alaskan Tribal Leaders *April 29, 1994*

The President. Thank you very, very much. Chief Wilma Mankiller and to all the other distinguished leaders here today, let me first welcome you here on behalf of the First Lady and Vice President and Mrs. Gore. All of us are honored by your presence. I also wanted to especially thank those who have spoken and participated to this point and those who will participate in the remainder of this program. I have listened carefully and learned a lot.

This is, as all of you know, a time of great challenge and transition for our beloved country and for the world. As I travel across this country and talk to the people about the problems that all Americans share, whether it's crime or health care or the economy, I find a concern that goes deeper even in these specific matters.

There is a great yearning in this Nation for people to be able to reestablish a sense of community, a sense of oneness, a sense of cooperation, of shared values and spirit. Americans are searching for the chance to come together in friendship, instead of coming apart in anger and distrust. There is a yearning for us to be able to live together so that all of us can live up to our God-given potential and be respected for who and what we are.

It is in that spirit and with great humility I say to the leaders of the first Americans, the

American Indian and Alaska Natives, welcome to the White House. Welcome home.

So much of who we are today comes from who you have been for a long time. Long before others came to these shores there were powerful and sophisticated cultures and societies here: yours. Because of your ancestors, democracy existed here long before the Constitution was drafted and ratified.

Just last week, people all around the world celebrated the 24th annual Earth Day. Yet for thousands of years, you have held nature in awe, celebrating the bond between Earth and the Creator. You have reminded people that all of us should make decisions not just for our children and their grandchildren but for generation upon generation yet to come.

I believe in your rich heritage and in our common heritage. What you have done to retain your identity, your dignity, and your faith in the face of often immeasurable obstacles is profoundly moving, an example of the enduring strength of the human spirit.

We desperately need this lesson now. We must keep faith with you and with that spirit and with the common heritage so many of us cherish. That is what you came to talk to me about and what I would like to respond to today.